

D-262
Taylor's Kindness
Rhodesdale vicinity (site)
Private
c. 1825-50

Until its demolition in the early 21st century, Taylor's Kindness was one of the best surviving second quarter of the nineteenth century farm dwellings to remain standing in the vicinity of Rhodesdale. Its characteristic three-part stepped form, indigenous to the region, included a two-story, side hall/parlor main block, a story-and-a-half, two-room plan center section, and a one-room plan kitchen. Architectural features written during a field visit by Michael Bourne in 1975 suggest the house dated from the second quarter of the nineteenth century.

Land record research indicates the house was likely built during the ownership of Levin or Matthew Smith, who held title to this section of Taylor's Kindness, beginning in 1831. Encompassing 443 acres, the farm passed from Matthew Smith to his only heir, Matthew J. T. Smith, who is designated at this site on the Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas of 1877. Matthew J. T. Smith was one of the largest landowners in what was then part of the East New Market Election District with title to 2000 acres. Like his father, Matthew J. T. Smith died intestate, leaving his widow Mary Jane Smith and children James L., Samuel J. T., Sarah, and India. James L. Smith acquired the interests of the others and maintained ownership of the farm until his death in 1944. Smith family tenure only lasted three more years.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-262

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Taylor's Kindness

other Smith Farm

2. Location

street and number East New Market-Rhodesdale Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Rhodesdale ☒ vicinity

county Dorchester

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name MAC Farms, Inc.

street and number P. O. Box 92 telephone 410-

city, town Rhodesdale state MD zip code 21659-0092

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber MLB 439 folio 590

city, town Cambridge tax map 23 tax parcel 14 tax ID number 15--015837

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources
previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. D-262

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The farm known as Taylor's Kindness is located west of Rhodesdale and bordering MD Routes 14 and 331. The house was located at the corner of an ell-shaped lane and accessed both state roads. Facing south, the gable roof of the house was oriented on an east/west axis. Surveyed in June 1975 by Michael Bourne, the farmhouse stood until the early 21st century when it was demolished due to its interference with a pivot irrigation sweep.

Dating from the second quarter of the nineteenth century, the two-story, three-part frame house was built in the characteristic steeped or telescope form common to the region. The three-part house was supported on a low, minimal brick foundation, and the exterior was clad with artificial siding. The steeply pitched gable roofs were covered with asphalt shingles.

The south façade of the main two-story, three-bay section followed a side hall/parlor plan with a side entrance flanked by sidelights and a transom typical of the mid nineteenth century. The entrance was sheltered by a neoclassical single-bay portico of Tuscan columns. The wall surface west of the doorway was marked by a pair of six-over-six sash windows, and three six-over-six sash windows lighted the second floor. The edge of the roof was trimmed with a boxed cornice, and the flush were flush. Rising through the west end was an interior end brick chimney stack.

The east gable end of the main block was largely covered by a story-and-a-half, four-bay service wing that had a tall brick chimney rising through its center. A pair of uneven sized gable roofed dormers marked the south roof slope.

The interior description of the house is very vague, but it mentions the central chimney stack in the center section having a back-to-back fireplaces. There is also mention of a section of beaded weatherboards exposed within a small enclosed staircase in a north side addition that extended from the center section.

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-262

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Until its demolition in the early 21st century, Taylor's Kindness was one of the best surviving second quarter of the nineteenth farm dwellings in the vicinity of Rhodesdale. Its characteristic three-part stepped form, indigenous to the region, included a two-story, side hall/parlor main block, a story-and-a-half two-room center section, and a one-room plan kitchen. Architectural features written during a field visit by Michael Bourne in 1975 suggest the house dated from the second quarter of the nineteenth century.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Land record research indicates the house was likely built during the ownership of Levin or Matthew Smith, who held title to this section of Taylor's Kindness, beginning in 1831.¹ Encompassing 443 acres, the farm passed from Matthew Smith to his only heir, Matthew J. T. Smith, who is located at this site on the Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas of 1877. Matthew J. T. Smith was one of the largest landowners in what was then the East New Market Election District with title to 2000 acres.² Like his father, Matthew J. T. Smith died intestate, leaving his widow, Mary Jane Smith and children, James L. Smith, Samuel J. T. Smith and daughters Sarah E. Vickers, and India M. Baker.³ James L. Smith acquired the interests of the others and maintained ownership of the farm until his death in 1944.⁴ Smith family ownership lasted three more years when the farm was sold out of the family.⁵

¹ Dorchester County Land Record, ER 12/342, 4 June 1831, Dorchester County Courthouse.

² John L. Graham, et al. *The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*, Wicomico Bicentennial Committee, p. 84.

³ Dorchester County Land Record, CL 34/484, 16 December 1908, Dorchester County Courthouse.

⁴ Dorchester County Will Book, RPS 5/284, 12 April 1944, Dorchester County Courthouse.

⁵ Dorchester County Land Record, RSM 64/332, 1 November 1947, Dorchester County Courthouse.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-262

Name Taylor's Kindness
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

Taylor's Kindness
Rhodesdale vicinity, Dorchester County
Chain of title

Map 23, Parcel 14

MLB 439/590

Edward H. Nabb, Jr. Personal Representative of the
Estate of Virginia D. Miller

to

12.26.2000

MAC Farms

Lot No. 2 of the lands of Galen L. Miller, 5.2.1978, plat liber
21/41, 7.20 acres, said Virginia D. Miller departed this life,
10.14.2000

RSM 86/49-50

J. Spence Phelps, et ux.

to

11.23.1953

Galen L. Miller and Virginia D. Miller

Taylor's Kindness, containing 443 acres

RSM 64/332

Sheldon R. Smith and Viola I. Smith

to

11.1.1947

J. Spence Phelps and Mary C. Phelps

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-262

Name Taylor's Kindness
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

Dorchester County
Will Book
RPS 5/284

Last Will and Testament of James L. Smith

to, son

4.12.1944

Sheldon R. Smith

CL 34/484

Samuel J. T. Smith, Mary R. Smith, Sarah E. Vickers, H. Lee Vickers, and India M. Baker, and John A. Baker

to

12.16.1908

James L. Smith

First, whereas Matthew J. T. Smith departed this life intestate and and left surviving him Mary Jane Smith, his widow, James L. Smith, Samuel J.T. Smith intermarried with Mary R. Smith, Sarah E. Vickers intermarried with H. Lee Vickers and India M. Baker intermarried with John A. Baker

443 acres

Died Intestate

Matthew Smith

To only heir

Matthew J. T. Smith

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-262

Name Taylor's Kindness
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

ER 17/446

Levin Smith

to

8.26.1839

Matthew Smith, Jr.

Whereas Thomas Tolly of the county aforesaid purchased of the within named Levin Smith for \$700 of part of the said purchase money and departed this life having a balance due and failing to obtain a conveyance for the same, and whereas Thomas Tolly the eldest male heir of Travers Tolly accepted to take the said real estate at the valuation of the commissioners appointed by Dorchester County Court to value and divide the real estate of said Travers Tolly and hath since contracted with and sold the same to within named Matthew Smith, Jr. who hath paid to said Levin Smith

Taylor's Kindness

ER 12/342

Sarah Waggaman, Dorchester County

to

6.4.1831

Levin Smith

\$ 1,329 "Taylor's Kindness 443 acres

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-262

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.

Dorchester County Wills, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.

Interview with Irene Harper, 12.03.08

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 1 acre

Acreage of historical setting 443 acres

Quadrangle name Rhodesdale, Maryland

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

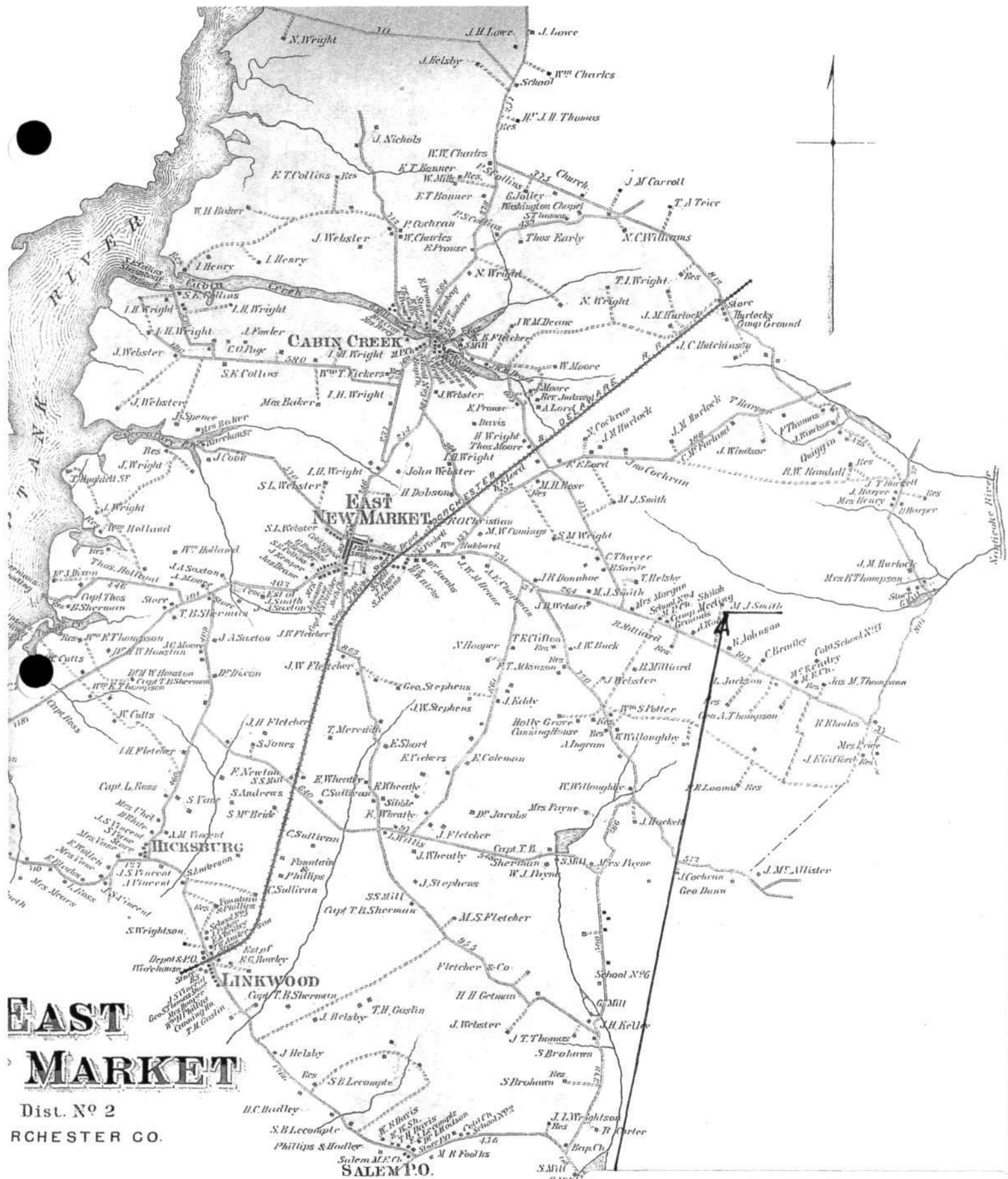
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	12.03.08
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

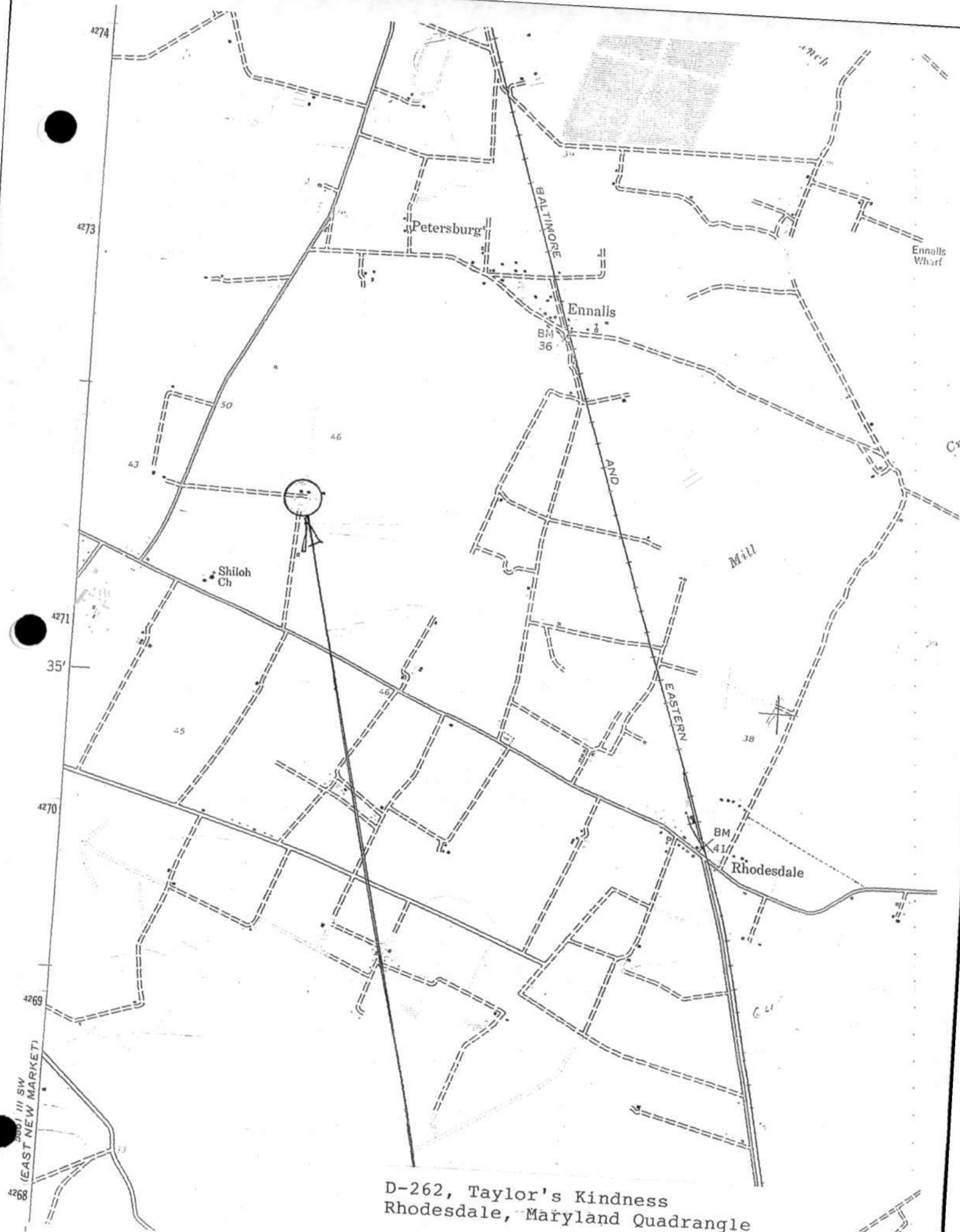
The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600



D-262, Taylor's Kindness
 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas
 1877



MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

1. NAME

COMMON:

Taylor's Kindness

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Md. Rt. 14, near Shiloh Church Road

CITY OR TOWN:

Rhodesdale

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY:

Dorchester

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Mr. and Mrs. Galen L. Miller

STREET AND NUMBER:

RFD

CITY OR TOWN:

Hurlock

STATE:

Maryland

21643

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Dorchester County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

High Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Cambridge

STATE:

Maryland

21613

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): 086/049

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

☐ Federal☐ State☐ County☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Taylor's Kindness is the best preserved telescopic frame dwelling in the vicinity of Rhodesdale. It is composed of three early portions with a small modern extension and porch.

The tallest portion appears to have been built close to the middle of the 19th century and is three bays long and two stories tall. In its west gable is a brick chimney. The eastern most bay of the facade has a modern portico above the door. The middle section of the house is four bays long and has a central chimney and a window on each side of the chimney, the eastern dormer being smaller than the other. Slightly lower is the kitchen wing which is two bays long. All of the building is one room deep, however, a small addition is constructed on the north side of the east half of the center section.

The addition to the east end is the garage. A screened porch stretches across the kitchen and one bay of the middle section.

Inside, the two rooms of the middle section, which was heated by the central chimney, are now one, with the enormous side-by-side brick fireplaces standing as a screen between the living and dining rooms. This section appears to date from around 1820. A portion of the original beaded clapboard is exposed in the stair of the small bedroom wing north of the dining room.

In the northwest corner of the kitchen is a small enclosed stair. An old porch is located on its north side.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Taylor's Kindness is an important telescopic structure, not only for the vicinity, but for the county. It resembles the house at the southern end of Punch Island Road, Taylor's Island, but the center section of the latter house is only one room long.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		0 ' "	0 ' "	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

District 15, Map 23, p. 14

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant		DATE
ORGANIZATION Maryland Historical Trust		June, 1975
STREET AND NUMBER: Shaw House, 21 State Circle		
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis	STATE Maryland	21401

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

15X136

75%

R-262



Taylor's Inheritance

D-262

M. Bourne June 1975